Establishment of digital Library

†3255. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to establish a digital library in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objective behind establishment of such library; and

(d) by when it would be established?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Such a proposal is being formulated.

(b) and (c) It proposes to make available in digital format cultural contents like books, songs, paintings etc. It will facilitate wider dissemination and better accessibility.

Most institutions within Ministry of Culture have on-going individual digitization programmes of their material.

(d) Preliminary work is expected to commence during this year to consolidate these efforts.

Scheme for Development of Tribal Culture

†3256. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for protection and development of tribal culture is under consideration of his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the nature, details and provisions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Culture has a number of programmes to preserve and promote tribal culture and folk art. They include a number of programmes sponsored by the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, Zonal Cultural Centres and the Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata. In addition, the Ministry of Culture has a specific Scheme for Preservation and Promotion of Tribal and Folk Art and Culture. Under this Scheme,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Voluntary Organisations, Institutions and Individuals both tribal and non-tribal, who are engaged in the preservation of Tribal and Folk Art and Culture and provided financial assistance. In the current financial year *i.e.* 2005-06, a provision of Rs. 1.70 crore has been made for this scheme.

Development of NER

3257. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a national agenda for development of the NE Region;

(b) if so, Government's action plan to secure speedy development of the region, specially for development of rural infrastructure and generation of employment;

(c) whether any help from the foreign agencies has also been sought in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) To accelerate development in the North Eastern Region, Prime Minister had announced "New Initiaives for North Eastern Region" in 1996 which, *inter alia*, stipulated that at least 10% of the plan budget of the Central Ministries/Departments (except those exempted), would be earmarked and spent for the development of the North Eastern States and the unspent balance of the earmarked 10% would be credited to a Non-Lapsable Fund, specially created for the North Eastern Region for funding critical developmental projects. A separate Department for the development of North Eastern Region was created which was subsequently upgraded to a Ministry. The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region sanctions and funds projects for the development of socio-economic infrastructure on regular basis. In addition, North Eastern Council has been restrcutured and made a Regional Planning Body. The NEC has been assigned the task of preparing a Vision Document-2020 for the development of NE Region by